

THE DIGHTONS
OF
CLIFFORD CHAMBERS

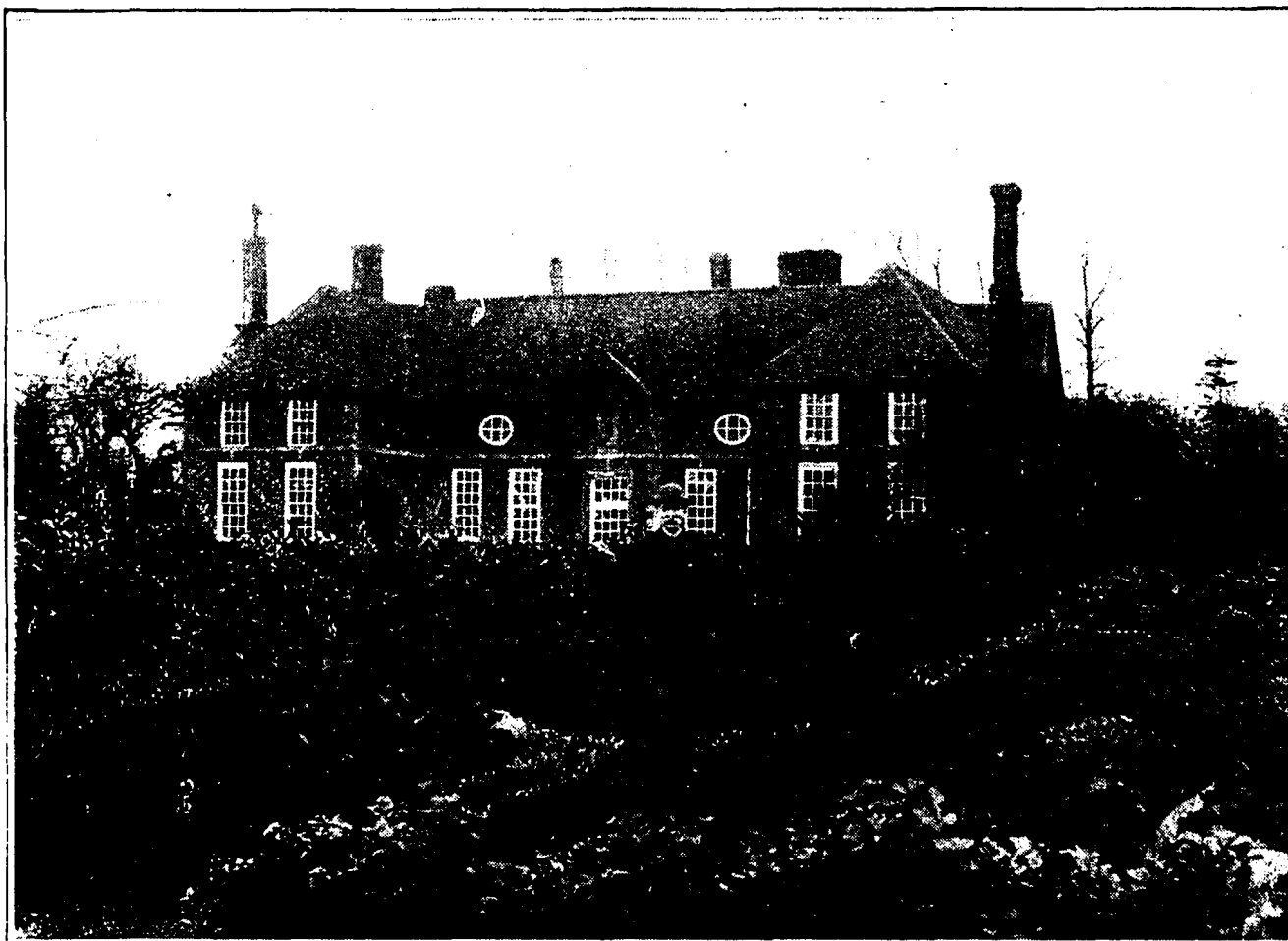
And their Descendants

BY
CONWAY DIGHTON



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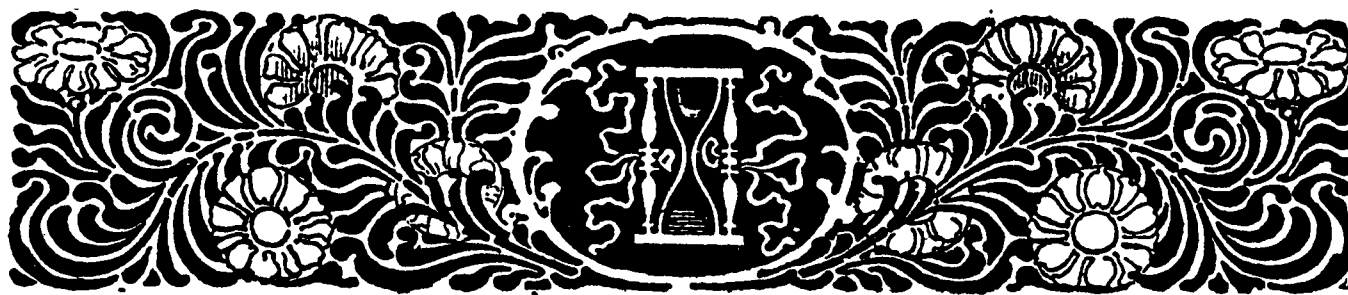
**THE
DIGHTONS OF CLIFFORD CHAMBERS
AND THEIR DESCENDANTS**



THE MANOR-HOUSE OF CLIFFORD CHAMBERS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.



THE MANOR-HOUSE OF CLIFFORD CHAMBERS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE
(OLDEST PORTION).



P r e f a c e .

I FEEL that this little book requires a word or two of explanation as to the form in which it appears. I had intended to write a monograph on my ancestor, John Dighton (1713-1761), and having done that I was moved to continue the family history down to recent times.

I wish to acknowledge my debt of gratitude to Miss F. E. Cottrell Dormer, and to the Revs. Herbert Wigan, H. Salter, and C. C. Luxmoore for their kind assistance and valuable information, without which my task would have been impossible.

C. D.



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The Dightons of Clifford Chambers and their Descendants



JOHN DIGHTON was the youngest son of Richard Dighton of Clifford Chambers, Gloucestershire, by his wife Alice, daughter and coheirress of Francis Keyt of Hidcote,* in the parish of Mickleton, in the same county, by his wife Alice,† daughter of Sir William Spencer of Yarn-ton, or Yardington, Oxon, whose wife Constance was daughter to Sir Thomas Lucy, Knight, of Charlecote, Warwickshire, celebrated as Shakespeare's Justice Shallow.

Richard Dighton's grandfather, Job Dighton, Barrister-at-Law of the Middle Temple, had settled at Clifford about 1639, bought the manor and advowson in 1649 from the Raynsfords, who were ruined Royalists, for £4,450, died there ten years later, and was buried in the night by his brother,‡ Mr. William Harewell. This interment may have been a pompous affair, with the glare of torches—in some families it was customary to be buried thus—but

* Hidcote House, built by one of the Keyt family in 1663, is still to be seen, a picturesque structure of stone, L-shaped in plan, with Jacobean gables.

† See Inscription, Appendix I.

‡ Or Harswell, his wife's brother. See Appendix H.

from the wording of the parish register another inference may be drawn—viz., secret obsequies at a time when the use of the Book of Common Prayer was forbidden by Act of Parliament.

His son Henry, who succeeded him at Clifford, married Sarah, daughter of Dr. Richard Bayley, Principal of St. John's College, Oxon, and Dean of Salisbury, by whom he had an only son and heir, Richard Dighton, mentioned before. His eldest son, Francis Keyt Dighton, who succeeded to the property, had two sons, Francis Keyt, who predeceased, and Lister, who succeeded him, and two daughters, Alice, wife of the Rev. Arthur Annesley, Vicar of Chewton Mendip, and Arabella, who died unmarried.

Richard Dighton's daughter Alice married John Dormer, Esq., and her sister Arabella, late in life (1758), became the wife of John Floyer.*

These details are necessary for the proper understanding of the following particulars of John Dighton, kindly sent me by the Rev. H. Salter, Vicar of Shirburn, and found by him when searching among old records at Shirburn Castle.

In January, 1754, John Dighton bought an estate in Shirburn—viz., the house now called Shirburn Lodge—built by a London merchant about 1720, and about 270 acres, all of it beech-woods, for £6,600. The property had belonged to a Mr. Little, who became bankrupt, and by the direction of the assignees or commissioners it was sold to the highest bidder, who was John

* Dr. Samuel Johnson, in a letter dated March 27, 1784, mentioned Sir John Floyer as the author of a "Treatise on Asthma," which was considered by the medical faculty of the day to be a standard work. Floyer, like Johnson, suffered from this complaint, and yet (as Johnson writes) panted on till near ninety, and corrupted the register of his baptism that he might appear younger than he was (Boswell's "Life of Johnson," Fitzgerald's edition, p. 463). See also Appendix F.

Dighton. Owing to lawsuits commenced by one of the creditors of Little against the assignees, the completion of the bargain was delayed till November 13, 1759. Francis Keyt Dighton is mentioned in the conveyance as being a trustee or guardian of John Dighton. On January 9, 1760, John Dighton bought the Manor of Ascot (the capital messuage, parks, meadow, and grove), with lands and premises in Great Milton, Newington, Chalgrove, Brockhampton, Holcomb, and Ascot, for £19,781 from Sir Charles Cottrell Dormer, of which £2,650 was to remain on mortgage to Sir Charles Dormer, and £7,000 to William Lee, Esq. Ascot House is now gone, though the site of it can easily be made out. It also appears that Mrs. Dighton had inherited "very considerable personal estate" by the death of her brother James Hunter in 1753, a large amount of which was spent by her husband in purchasing the Shirburn and Ascot properties. The real and personal estate of John Dighton, apart from what came to him through his wife, was about £5,000.

On April 21, 1760, John Dighton mortgaged this Shirburn property to George Lucy* of Charlcote, Warwickshire, for £3,500, and on January 1 of the following year he (John Dighton) died intestate, leaving a widow and eight children—James Lucy (eldest son and heir), Alice,† Richard, Charles, Elizabeth, Lucy, Arabella, and Henry. Another son, John, was born six months after his father's death. John Spencer, the first-born, had died in childhood.

John Dighton at the time of his decease was the senior partner of a firm of solicitors styled Dighton and Bonnin. Among his clients who paid after his death were Lord Bolingbroke, Francis Keyt Dighton, Sir Robert Keyt,

* See Appendix D.

† See Appendices H and I.

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and the Vicar of Clapham, whose tithes he collected. He had a London house in Southampton Buildings, also chambers in Staples Inn.* He was buried in Great Milton, near Ascot, the curate of the parish receiving £1 1s., the clerk 8s. 6d., and the clerk of St. Andrew's, Holborn, his London parish, 12s. 6d. for funeral dues.

John Dighton had had £600 belonging to his sister Arabella, the wife of John Floyer, who may have been a clergyman, as he has "cl." after his name in the old papers, or, on the other hand, "cl." may merely have been an erasure. John Dighton and his wife, when in the country, lived at Shirburn Lodge, where his furniture and moveables, including carts and felled timber, were worth £500. Administration† of his estate was granted to the widow, Elizabeth Dighton, in January, 1761. The rents of the farms on the Ascot estate brought in about £380 a year, the woods on the Shirburn estate yielding about £250 per annum. Mrs. Dormer—that is, John Dighton's sister Alice—continued to live at Ascot House, paying £91 annual rent.

To explain this arrangement fully, it will be necessary to give a short account of the Dormers of Ascot from materials collected and kindly sent to me by Miss F. E. Cottrell Dormer, author of a "History of the Dormers of Ronsham."

Ascot had been held by the Dormers since the beginning of the sixteenth century, when Richard Grenville, Esq., son and heir of Eustace, exchanged the Manor of Ascot in the county of Oxon with Robert Dormer, Esq., for Barwell Manor in Wotton, which the said Robert had purchased, and which had been given from the family by Sir Eustace de Grenville with his daughter Alice in

* See Appendix H.

† See Appendix C.

marriage, and thereby the whole of the property in Wotton was again united.

In Skelton's "Antiquities of Oxon" we read: "In more recent times this estate of Ascott was the property of the Dormer family who resided here for many years.

"William Dormer, the son of Sir Robert Dormer, built here a noble mansion; but after the outside was completed the joiners' shavings accidentally took fire, and on October 9, 1662, the structure was destroyed. This William Dormer was High Sheriff of Oxon in 1666, and was a man respecting whom report states many notions of his unbounded love of splendour. He married a daughter of Edmund Waller of Beaconsfield. On September 25, 1683, he closed his life at Great Wycombe, on his return from Uxbridge. His body was brought to Ascott, and buried soon afterwards at Milton, by the remains of his ancestors."

Wood's MSS., quoted in Davenport's "Lord-Lieutenants and High Sheriffs of Oxon," says of this William Dormer: "He went to Uxbridge Fair, and upon his return died at Great Wycombe, having then and before taken too much of the creature."

William Dormer was succeeded in the estate at Ascot by his brother, John Dormer, who is stated in Baker's "History of Northamptonshire" to have married Katherine, youngest daughter of Sir Thomas Spencer, Knight and Bart., and by this lady to have succeeded to the presentation of the living of Syresham, near Brackley.

In 1712* John Dormer married Alice, daughter of Richard Dighton, Esq., of Clifford Chambers, Gloucestershire, as previously mentioned, the bride being at the time just under the age of twenty-one.

The following are copies of John Dormer's will, and of a letter from his family lawyer:

* See Appendices G and H.

6 *The Dightons of Clifford Chambers*

WILL.

“My will and desire is to be buried at the Parish Church of Great Milton, in the Burial Place of my Ancestors, in such manner as my executors herinafter named shall think proper.

“I do hereby give and bequeath my House and Garden and the Park in Ascot as it is now Gated and walled in, together with the use of all my Plate and Furniture, to my loving wife Alice Dormer during the time she shall continue my widow, she keeping up the House in tenantable repair, and the Gardens in decent order.

“I do hereby devise to my said wife all my jewels.

“All the rest of my real estate, whether in possession or reversion, and all my personal Estate of what kind, I do hereby give and bequeath to my kinsman, Robert Dormer, of Ronsham, in the county of Oxon, Esq^{re}, and to his Heirs for ever.

“The 19th Day of April, 1725.

“JOHN DORMER.”

COPY OF LETTER AT RONSHAM.

“If I have not followed your directions, you must be at the pains of writing this will over again. I have not mentioned the Family Pictures.

“Mrs. Dormer will have the use of them during her widowhood only as part of the Furniture, and that is what I apprehended your meaning to be. You will take care to have these witnesses by at the time of the execution of it. I beg my humble services to the Ladies, and am ever yrs.,

“Your most humble servant,

“MATT. SKINNER.

“LINCOLN'S INN,

“August ye 17, 1725.”

Mr. John Dormer died two years later, as appears from the following endorsement on his will :

“ 1727.

“ Robertus Dormer Arm. executor. Jurat coram me.

“ E. ISHAM SENR.”

“ Three pictures now at Ronsham are supposed to have come from Ascot : Sir Thomas Spencer, Edmund Waller the poet as a young man, painted by Vandyke, and the same person as an old man by Riley. This last picture was lent to the Art Treasure Exhibition at Manchester, 1857, and has been mentioned in print as the Ronsham Waller.”

It is curious to note how the doom of childlessness seems to have pursued these later Dormers, leading, when General James Dormer died, who succeeded Robert Dormer of Ronsham, to the total extinction of the male line.

Sir Clement Cottrell, Knight, first cousin of General James Dormer, was the next possessor of the estates of Ronsham and Ascot, and he assumed the name of Dormer in addition to that of Cottrell. He married Bridget Sherborne, who died in 1731, and on his death in 1760 his son, Sir Charles Cottrell Dormer, sold the Ascot property, as previously related, to John Dighton.

Lawsuits followed between the trustees of Mrs. Elizabeth Dighton, widow, and the guardian or “ next friend ” of James Lucy Dighton, who, according to the report of the legal proceedings, was William Throckmorton Bromley, Esquire.

It appears that in July, 1748, a marriage settlement was drawn up between John Dighton of Staple Inn, London, and Elizabeth Dighton his wife, being then

newly wed and not yet twenty-one years of age, daughter of John Hunter, deceased. The trustees were Francis Keyt Dighton, Esq., of Clifford, Gloucestershire; John Eeles, Esq., and James Jones, gent., both of Stadham (Stadhampton, near Ascot, Oxon); and James Hunter, Esq., of St. John's College, Oxford, brother of Mrs. Elizabeth Dighton. From the fact that two of the trustees mentioned here came from Stadham, it seems probable that either the Hunters or the Dightons had some connection with that part of the country; but this by the way.

Elizabeth Dighton inherited half the money of John Hunter, her father, deceased—viz., £8,207. It appeared that John Dighton had invested some of this—viz., £4,010—in the purchase of the Shirburn property. The guardian of James Lucy Dighton claimed the real property for him, whereas Mrs. Dighton maintained it was bought with her money. Finally, the Master of the Rolls ordered the Shirburn property to be sold, so as to pay back to Mr. Lucy £3,500 and to the trustees of the marriage settlement £4,010, if the money offered for the property were sufficient.

As James Lucy Dighton was a minor, the property could not be sold without a special Act of Parliament, which was passed in 1767, and of which there are four copies among the estate papers in Shirburn Castle. It is an Act of twelve pages of printing. The Shirburn estate was twice put up for sale. On the first occasion only £6,300 was bid for it, which sum the Master of the Rolls would not accept. On the second occasion it was bought by Mr. Harding Stracey for £7,000, and conveyed to him March 1, 1768.

Nothing is known as to how and where the widow, Elizabeth Dighton, brought up her nine children.

She probably received much kindness from George

Lucy of Charlecote and Lister Dighton of Clifford, both of whom remembered her in their wills.

Three of her daughters married. The eldest, Alice, became the second wife of the Rev. Thomas Birt, Vicar of Llantillio, co. Monmouth, son of the Rev. James Birt, Canon of Hereford, and Lecturer of Newland, Gloucestershire.

The second, Elizabeth, married in May, 1784, John Colchester of Westbury-on-Severn. Family tradition has it that Mr. Colchester was one day sitting in his summer-house at the end of his garden by the road, waiting to see the coach pass. One of the passengers was a beautiful young lady. I am tempted here to apply Wordsworth's lines, only interchanging the pronouns :

" She was a phantom of delight
When first she gleamed upon his sight."

He arose in haste, followed up the coach to the Red Lion, where it had stopped, found out who she was, and never rested till he had married her.

The garden where this romantic incident is said to have happened, laid out in the old Dutch style, with long ponds, statues, and summer-house, can still be seen at Westbury, much the same as it appears in a plate of Atkyns' "Gloucestershire" (1712).

The third daughter, Lucy, became in 1781 the wife of James Davies, of St. Briavels, Gloucestershire, who assumed the name and arms of Machen on succeeding to the Eastbach property.

The property at Ascot was sold, but I have not been able to trace the date of the sale, after which James Lucy Dighton went to India. It is thought he went as private secretary to Warren Hastings, but I have not found any allusion to this in Gleig's life of the great Governor-General, and his name does not appear as a witness, or in

any other capacity, in a very full account of the trial published in 1794 by J. Owen, of 168, Piccadilly.

It is evident that these Dightons must have possessed great influence with the directors of the East India Company, an influence probably traceable to Elizabeth Dighton's father, John Hunter, who is described as of Fort St. George. On his return from India, James Lucy Dighton further distinguished himself by eloping with a pretty girl of obscure origin named Sarah Webster, or Lane, from Wotton-under-Edge.

They went abroad, and were among the 11,000 English imprisoned by the First Consul in 1803 and the following years.*

James Lucy Dighton is said to have missed being made heir to his childless cousin, Lister Dighton of Clifford, on account of his dissipated character and fondness for the table covered with green baize; but it should in fairness to his memory be recollected that deep drinking and high play were the rule, and not the exception, in the England and India of those days. He is described in Rudge's "County of Gloucester" (1805) as of Newland Villa. This was in the London Road, Gloucester.

In their later years this couple lived in the parish of St. Katherine, Gloucester, the wife for many years totally blind, and they were both buried at St. Mary de Lode in extreme old age. They left no issue.

James Lucy Dighton's three brothers, Richard, Henry, and John, all went to India.

Of Henry it is recorded with provoking brevity that

* On the rupture of the Treaty of Amiens, Bonaparte, contrary to the law of nations, had all the English travelling upon the Continent arrested. The *Annual Register* sets their number at 11,000, and says that the great Consul, like a politic shepherd, continued removing the pen of his bleating English flock from spot to spot, well knowing that the soil would be everywhere enriched by their temporary residence (Selection from the "Correspondence and Letters of Napoleon," Bingham, vol. ii., p. 2).

“he died in India.” That is all we know. No doubt he—

“Ate, drank, laughed, loved and lived, and liked life well.
Then came—who knows?—some gust of jungle wind,
A stumble in the path, a taint in the tank,
A snake’s nip, half a span of angry steel,
A chill, a fishbone, or a falling tile,
And life was over, and the man is dead.”

Richard Dighton, on his return from India, lived at the Wilderness, near Micheldean, where his children were born. His daughter Sophia married her cousin, Edward Tomkins Machen, Deputy-Gaveller and Deputy-Surveyor of Dean Forest from 1805 to 1854.

His eldest son, James Lister Dighton, went to Rugby and Exeter College, Oxford, where one of his great friends was Mr. John Peel, afterwards Dean of Worcester. He was ordained, and held the curacies, first of St. Briavels, and then of Rodmarton, Gloucestershire. He married in 1824 Maria Eliza Vaughan, and from about 1827 to 1833 he had sole charge of Stoneaston, Somerset. In the latter year he was appointed to Dixton, near Monmouth, where, having built the present Vicarage, he lived for thirty-eight years. He had several daughters, the youngest of whom married Henry Douglas, merchant of London, son of Prebendary Douglas of Durham. Their son was the late Rev. William Willoughby Douglas, Rector of Salwarpe, and Hon. Canon of Worcester, whose sister Fanny married the Rev. W. Walsham How, late Bishop of Wakefield.

James Lister Dighton’s brother Edward also went to Oxford, was ordained, held the perpetual curacy of Cranmore, Somerset, for twenty-one years, died at Great Malvern December 28, 1850, and was buried in Dixton Churchyard.

John, the posthumous son of John Dighton of Ascot Park, was a distinguished Indian officer. The following

particulars of his career I have received from the India Office, Whitehall :

He became an Ensign on April 26, 1779; a Lieutenant on May 20, 1784; a Captain on June 1, 1796; a Major on December 16, 1799; a Lieutenant-Colonel (brevet or local) on January 2, 1804; full rank October 15, 1809; a Colonel on June 4, 1813; a Major-General on August 12, 1819; a Lieutenant-General on January 10, 1837.

The following particulars of his career are also copied verbatim from the official records :

John Dighton was nominated by T. B. Rous, Esq.; approved at the India House December 3, 1778. Arrived at Madras January 18, 1780 (*Journal of the Atlas*). Court approve of his employment in the Nizam's service (Military Letter to Madras, May 21, 1794). On furlough in 1786 (Furlough list).

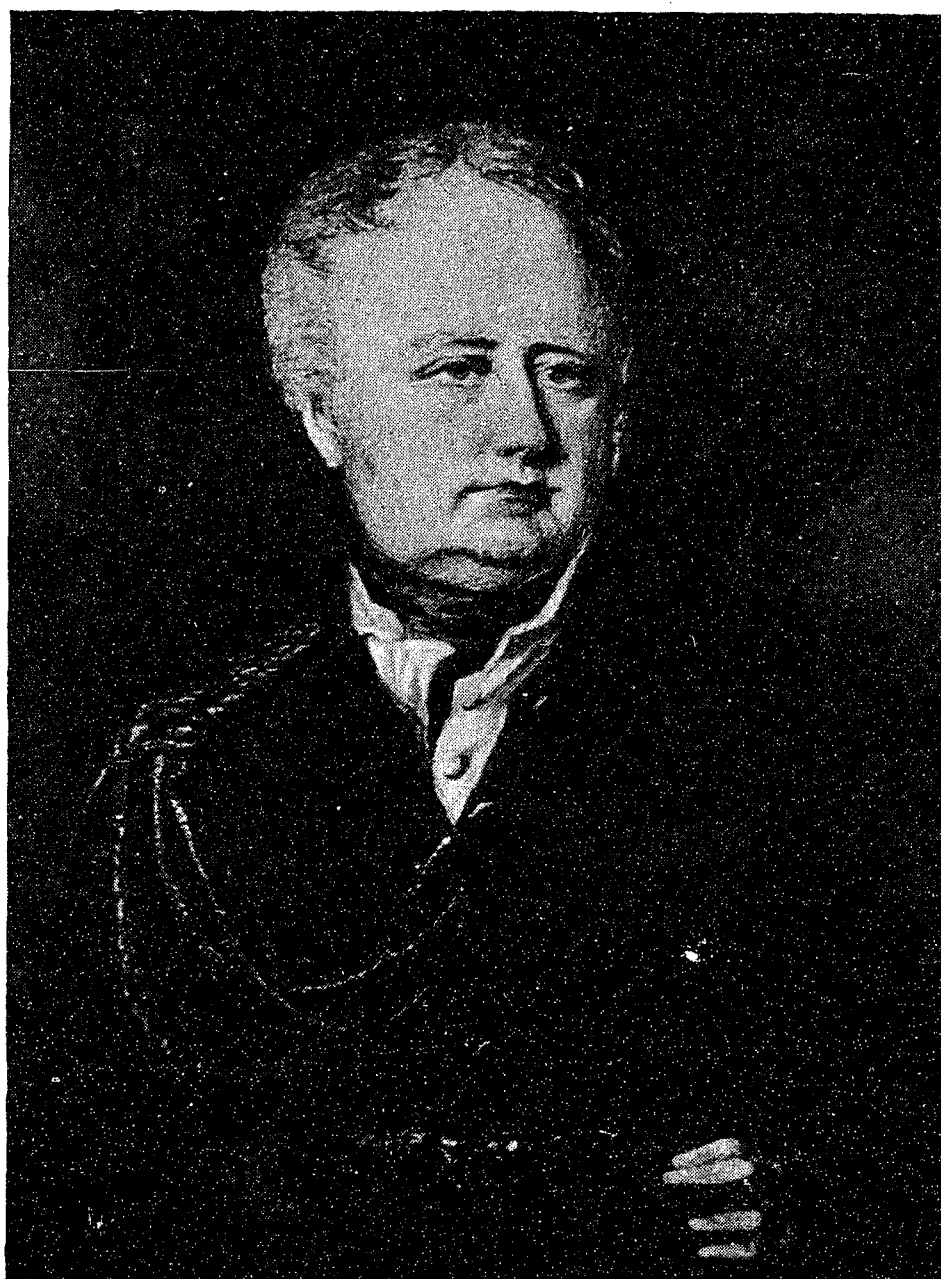
To join 1st Division European Regiment: General Orders, February 23, 1801. Furlough to Europe, sick certificate: General Orders, September 18, 1807. Returned to his duty: General Orders, August 24, 1810.

To command at Wallajabad: General Orders, September 14, 1810. Leave to Presidency, private affairs, till November 1: General Orders, August 7, 1812.

To command Southern Division of the army: General Orders, October 6, 1812. Relieved from off Reckoning Committee: General Orders, November 25, 1816. Appointed to command army in Ceded Districts: General Orders, September 1, 1818. Furlough to Europe on private affairs: General Orders, November 22, 1819. Sailed January 23, 1820 (A. L.).

Died June 13, 1840, at Gloucester: General Orders, September 4, 1840. He was buried at Newland.

General John Dighton was married thrice: first to Susan Smart, by whom he had a son, John who died when he was about twenty-one; then to Arabella Veronica



LIEUTENANT-GENERAL JOHN DIGHTON, HON. EAST
INDIA COMPANY, 1761-1840.

From a Miniature.

Mein who bore him five sons; and, finally, to Susan, daughter of Edmund Probyn, Esq., of Newland, Gloucestershire, one of the Verderers of the Forest.

This last marriage, contracted about 1820, after General Dighton's return from India, connected him closely with Gloucestershire. Among the county gentlemen with whom he became associated were Mr. Philip Ducarel, J.P., who lived at Newland, and his brother-in-law, Mr. Doveton, a clergyman. Philip Ducarel's daughter married a Frenchman, Count Henry de la Pasture, who had held a commission in the 18th Hussars.

This same Count published in 1839 a very curious novel called "Real Pearls in a False Setting," in which General John Dighton and one of his elder brothers are described under the thin disguise of Frighton. The story is interesting, on account of its local colour, but so coarse and libellous that it was promptly and carefully suppressed. The chief incidents of the story take place at Cheltenham and in the Forest of Dean.

Another prominent character in the story is called Alexander Boscoe, and is intended for James Davies, of St. Briavels, who married Lucy Dighton. An amusing account, which I believe has the distinct merit of being true, is given of how the two young men, the elder Dighton and James Davies, soon after their college days determined they would go to America "for a lark." As one of them said, in recounting their adventures: "Any fool can live upon money, but it struck us it would be much more clever to live without it." So to America they went, and when their half-year's allowance ran out Dighton took a situation as coachman to a respectable family, and his friend got a place as clerk in a counting-house, of which he very soon tired. They then worked their passage home before the mast. The same couple also carried out a private expedition to Sierra Leone,

and narrowly escaped being killed and eaten by the natives.

The period of the action of the story is 1831, when the Foresters were rioting in protest against the enclosure of the Forest of Dean, instigated thereto by a certain Warren James in a handbill dated June 3, calling on all persons to meet and clear the Forest on Wednesday, June 8. The following is from the report of Mr. Machen, Deputy-Gaveller, quoted in Nicholls' "Forest of Dean":

"I spoke to him (Warren James) on the 5th, and told him in the presence of numbers the folly and danger of his proceedings, but he paid no attention. . . . I published a notice warning all persons not to join an unlawful assembly, and on Tuesday, the 7th, Mr. Ducarel and I issued a warrant to apprehend him, but it could not be executed. We swore in a number of special constables, and with the woodmen mustered about forty at the scene of action; but the rioters mustered nearly 200 with axes, etc., and began their work of destruction about seven o'clock, and we found resistance useless. . . . They continued their work Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, during which time they destroyed nearly one-third of the fences of the Forest, the reparation of which cost about £1,500. On Sunday military arrived, and they all dispersed. Warren James was apprehended and sentenced to transportation for life, and seven or eight others to different periods of imprisonment from one month to two years."

This is a digression, but I give it because it concerns Philip Ducarel and Edward Machen, and also because it is far more interesting than the farcical account of the same proceedings given in Count de la Pasture's book.

During General Dighton's absence in India, his sons were under the care of their maiden aunt, Arabella Dighton, and spent their holidays with her, chiefly at



DAVID BOYD DIGHTON, 1798-1824.

From a Miniature.

Cooper's Hill, in the parish of Brockworth, Gloucestershire. Two of them, James Anderson and Robert, died young of consumption. Two others carried on the Anglo-Indian tradition of their house—David Boyd and Richard Henry. Of the eldest son, Charles Mein Dighton, I will speak last. David Boyd Dighton entered the Madras Artillery, and, having attained the rank of First Lieutenant, was killed at Kittoor on October 23, 1824, in the beginning of the first Burmese War.*

Richard Henry, or, as he was usually called, Henry Dighton, always a delicate, sickly boy, made a great name for himself in India, and, what is more remarkable still, made name and fortune, not as a servant of the East India Company, but by his own unaided genius and force of character, and often in spite of the bitterest opposition which the Company could bring against him. Like his contemporary, Colonel Meadows Taylor, and not a few other eminent Englishmen, he was steeped in Orientalism, deeply conversant, not only with the native languages, but with the native modes of thought and expression. The natives felt that he understood them, and could sympathize with them, and they and his fellow-countrymen came in time to realize that Dighton Sahib was a man who could be implicitly trusted.

On two occasions he played a prominent part in the struggle between the Nizam of Hyderabad, supported to a certain extent by the English Resident, General Fraser, and the Government of India, under three successive Viceroys—Lords Ellenborough, Hardinge, and Dalhousie. This struggle was at length ended by the enforced cession of the Berars to the English by the Treaty of 1853.

To understand the part played by Mr. Dighton, it is necessary to remember that the finances of Hyderabad, as Colonel Meadows Taylor tells us in his interesting auto-

* Records at the India Office.

biography, the "Story of My Life," were much involved as early as 1818, after the second Mahratta War, during which Hyderabad was much devastated. It was at this date that Henry Dighton, shortly after landing in India, came to Hyderabad as an assistant in the banking-house of William Palmer and Co.

Later, in 1830, this firm became involved in litigation with the Nizam in order to recover large sums they had advanced to His Highness, but Mr. Dighton had entered on business on his own account as a banker and merchant before this controversy commenced.

In 1838 General Fraser was appointed Resident at Hyderabad. This distinguished officer entertained a high regard for Mr. Henry Dighton, and seems frequently to have sought and obtained his advice and assistance.

In the year 1847 the misgovernment of Hyderabad, and the inability of the Nizam to maintain the large contingent required of him by the Indian Government, reached such a point that it was necessary some action should be taken. General Fraser advocated internal reforms, which he believed would restore prosperity to this rich Native State, while still allowing it to retain its quasi-independence and possession of all its territories. His proposals to this end were regarded coldly by the Indian Government, who either disbelieved in the possibility of internal reforms, or desired an excuse for annexation. With these aims, and with the full concurrence of the Nizam and his Minister, Sooraj-ool-Moolk, General Fraser wished Henry Dighton to be appointed Zillahdar, or Commissioner of a district, fully believing that under his administration the district would soon become a model for the reform of the whole country. But this appointment was forbidden by the Viceroy, Lord Hardinge, on the grounds that the Treaty of 1798 gave the Governor-General a veto on the appointment of any European not connected with the East India

Company to any office under a Native Prince. It was also urged that Mr. Dighton's intimacy with the Resident was a disqualification. In the memoir of General Fraser, written by his son, Colonel Hastings Fraser, there is an interesting letter in which Henry Dighton describes fully an interview he had with the next Viceroy, Lord Dalhousie who maintained the objections of his predecessor to Mr. Dighton's employment under the Nizam's Government.

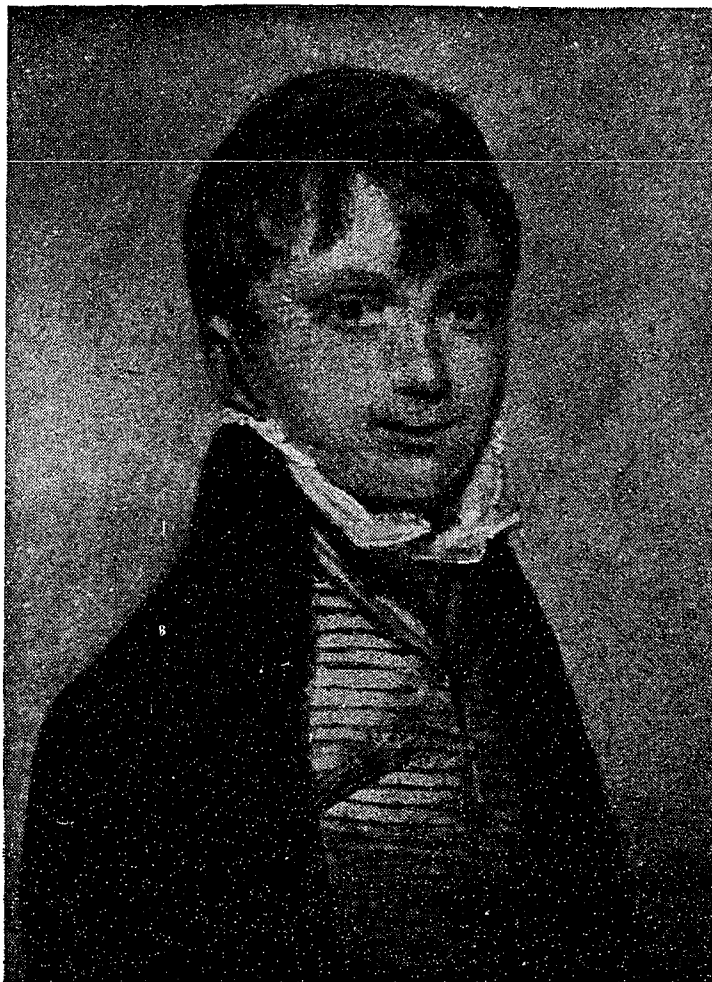
Later, in 1848, Fraser proposed an extension of his former plan—viz., that the Nizam should appoint three European gentlemen, Captains Meadows Taylor, and Bullock, officers in the Nizam's army, and Mr. Henry Dighton, as Commissioners to supervise three districts of Hyderabad. They were, in fact, appointed in 1851, and instructions were even issued for their guidance by General Fraser; but they did not take up their duties, as the Nizam at that time paid a large portion of the debt he owed to the Indian Government. To understand the bearing of this last statement we must remember that Lord Dalhousie was now insisting on these provinces—the Berars—being transferred to our management on mortgage. And there can be little doubt that, while Fraser was anxious for their restoration to the Nizam, the Government of India was hoping the districts would be permanently annexed.

As the despatches of the Governor-General became more and more menacing, a last effort was made to save the territorial integrity of Hyderabad by forming a Government bank to assist the Nizam in meeting the claims of the Indian Government. Henry Dighton was the chairman of the syndicate formed for this purpose, and was, indeed, the heart and soul of the whole enterprise which was also warmly supported by Fraser, as well as by the Nizam and his Minister, Sooraj-ool-Moolk. Capital was rapidly subscribed, and a loan of forty lakhs of rupees

at 6 per cent. on the security of a portion of the Nizam's jewels was arranged. This loan was to be devoted to the payment of the debt claimed by the East India Company. The jewels were actually in the custody of Mr. Henry Dighton, when the whole plan fell to the ground. Lord Dalhousie declared that his consent, and that of the Court of Directors, was necessary before any British subject could lend money to a Native Prince, and this consent Lord Dalhousie absolutely refused, quoting as his authority 37 George III., Cap. 142, Section 28. Moreover, he desired the Resident to send him full and immediate particulars as to the persons under whose direction the bank was being organized, and in the event of any one of them being a European, he was instructed that the Nizam's Government would be forbidden under Article VI. of the Treaty of 1798 to give him any employment, or "to permit him to remain within its territories." And so Mr. Dighton found himself proscribed, and even threatened with deportation. And with Mr. Dighton fell all the hopes and schemes of the syndicate, for all the success of the enterprise had depended on the general confidence felt in his integrity and financial abilities. A perfect panic prevailed in Hyderabad. The shareholders trembled for their investments, and naturally ; for the Nizam, indignant at his disappointment, and anxious about the fate of his jewels, retained a large part of the money intended for the payment of the debt. There were wild rumours that the Nizam would repudiate his pledges and seize the jewels, the only security for the sums advanced, or that the Governor-General would claim to have a lien on them.

The dramatic conclusion of this episode may well be told in the words of General Fraser's son and biographer :

"Mr. Dighton, whose conduct and reputation had sustained the whole concern, was beset and literally



RICHARD HENRY DIGHTON, 1799-1854.

From a Miniature.

besieged for some days. In order that the large sum of money already advanced should not be lost to its proprietors, or, to say the least, the payment of principal and interest deferred to an indefinite date, it was requisite to act promptly. The jewels were deposited at the house of Mr. Dighton's right-hand man, Mohammed Azim Ali Khan, in the Chudderghaut Bazar, on the road to the Residency, outside the city walls. They were under the charge of a double guard of Arabs and Rohillas, and there were three locks to the coffer, of which three interested parties kept the keys. Mr. Dighton declared himself to be under the necessity of going to Madras, partly on business, partly for change of air, as he was out of health, and suggested that before his departure the jewels had better be examined and compared with the catalogue attached to the mortgage-deed. A committee of the shareholders was appointed for this purpose, and so elaborate were the checks and counter-checks under which the scrutiny was performed that each tray of the jewel-chest in succession was carefully restored to its place *perfectly empty* in the inner chamber, after the committee had verified and passed its contents as correct in the outer apartment. A pair of jack-boots and a pith helmet formed the simple apparatus employed in a conveyancing process worthy of Robert Houdin. The strong-box with its three locks remained under the double guard of Arabs and Rohillas, while Mr. Dighton proceeded to Madras without an escort, carrying half of the jewels in his own palanquin, the apothecary in attendance on him having unconscious charge of the other half—worth about a quarter of a million sterling—in a box labelled 'Medical comforts.'

"No news of the flitting was given to the Minister until the precious deposit was well across the Kistna River, within British territory, when a letter was

despatched to Hyderabad. Everyone concerned, the Nizam included, had still perfect confidence in the probity of Mr. Dighton. The jewels were shipped to England, where Mr. Dighton also very soon proceeded. In the meantime the Berar Provinces were assigned under the Treaty of 1853, and the Minister, Sooraj-ool-Moolk, died. One of the first objects of his nephew and successor in office, the Nawab Salar Jung, was to redeem the State jewels, and he opened a correspondence with Mr. Dighton. The jewels were then in Holland, and a contract for their sale, under the powers conferred by the Nizam's bond, was very nearly completed. Salar Jung immediately found the means to pay the large sum due for interest, and by the end of 1854 the principal sum was discharged, and the jewels restored to the strong-room in the Nizam's palace."

Mention has already been made of the friendship existing between Henry Dighton and General J. S. Fraser. We have a portrait of the General, the same which appears as frontispiece to his biography. We have also an engraving of some great State function at Hyderabad, with a key giving the names of the principal personages represented. Among them are, I understand, General Fraser and Henry Dighton. Other friends of the latter were Captain Thomas MacGoun (afterwards General), Deputy Judge Advocate-General at Hyderabad, and Captain D. Malcolm, Assistant Resident.

Henry Dighton never married, but, like many bachelors, he was very fond of children, and often invited the young MacGouns and others to his house. On one of these occasions, when Mrs. MacGoun and her daughters and Mrs. Malcolm were with him, his Indian servant brought in a tray full of costly gifts—handsome bracelets for the ladies, and inlaid boxes of sandal-wood for the children. One of these boxes was given me by one of



CHARLES MEIN DIGHTON, 1797-1826.

From a Miniature.

the recipients — my friend Mrs. Henegan, widow of Colonel Henegan, at one time Inspector of Gun Factories in India. Round the bottom of the box is written : “Given Manie by Mr. H. Dighton, 1851, Bolarum, Decan, Nizam’s Dominions.”

He was at this time a little, thin, delicate-looking man, prematurely aged, and always wearing a black velvet skull-cap, as he was suffering from cancer in the head. He had paid one short visit to England in 1849, and was present at the Gloucester Festival of 1850. He finally returned to his native land in the same ship with the McGouns, with the Nizam’s jewels in his custody, as previously mentioned.

He died shortly afterwards—December 2, 1854—aged fifty-five years, and was buried at Newland.

Charles Mein Dighton, eldest brother of Henry Dighton, was for a short time in the army, and left it to enter Holy Orders. He was ordained deacon on August 11, 1821, and priest on July 20, 1822, in the cathedral of Llandaff, during the episcopate of Bishop Van Mildert, and was appointed curate of St. Mary’s, Warwick. One of the judges at the Spring Assizes held in Warwick in the following year was Mr. Justice J. A. Park. He seems to have met the young curate first in church, and to have immediately fallen under the spell of his attractive personality, for when he returned to London we find him writing thus to his friend :

“Bedford Square,
“May 1, 1823.

“MY DEAR SIR,

“I called upon you before I left Warwick because I was anxious to have for a few minutes continued the interesting conversation in which we were interrupted at the judge’s house on the Sunday. I have always thought the *moral* history of man a most engaging and interesting

study, and in that history nothing has given me more delight than to see and know (from the confidence placed in me by many young and excellent men who keep no secrets from me) the great numbers who, through a world in which from fortune, situation, and profession they have been surrounded by innumerable temptations, are steering their course firmly and undauntedly to the Region of Everlasting Peace. And in your own sacred Profession the moral or religious Phenomenon is still more remarkable where we see young men, who at College have been often living very immoral and licentious lives (though to this observation I know of many illustrious exceptions) and at a great expense, all *at once* reducing their expenditure to a fourth of their College outlay, and, as to more important points, bringing *their bodies into immediate subjection, and reducing every thought to the dominion of Christ*. As I said to you, all this is delightful to my feelings and to my heart, and though one exclaims, 'Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?' the only true answer is given by the Holy David in the same sentence in which he proposes the question—'even by ruling himself after Thy word, O Lord.'

"But perhaps you will think I have no business to write to you in this manner, or to expect your confidence, when I am almost a stranger. Indeed, my dear Sir, I hope you will think otherwise before I have done. I am one of those who always express strongly what I feel warmly, and who, old as I am, have no difficulty in stating to you that practical lessons of duty are still of the greatest importance to me, and that nothing does me more good, in a moral and religious view, than the lustre of the bright examples, both of old and young, that I see around me. I always have before my eyes and in my heart that beautiful sentiment of a favourite author of mine, which you will find in the title-page of one of the books I now send

you : 'He who desires that the *Table* of *his Life* may be fair will be careful to propose to himself the best examples, and will never be content till he equals or excels them.'

"With this sentiment in view as one of the governing principles of my life, do not imagine, my dear Sir, that I mean to flatter you when I tell you that before ever I heard you open your mouth in the pulpit you began to do me good. The apparently quiet and unassuming, but *fervent* and sincere, devotion which I witnessed in the pew with you on April 6, and the beautifully unaffected manner I then discovered, spread its immediate influence over my heart, and I immediately felt I wished to know more of one who made such an impression on me. What I witnessed on the second Sunday did not alter, but confirmed the opinion I had first formed, and excited both my surprise and admiration that one whose early life had been spent abroad in military service should so soon have attained such heights of virtue, and my only conclusion was that you never could have entered much into the dissipations of a military life.

"Seeing in you such a devout frame and temper of mind, I was anxious to present you with a small token of my regard suitable to those dispositions, and therefore I beg your acceptance of the accompanying manual* of devotion, and keep it for my sake, and when you are using it, now and then think of me, and offer up a prayer for me. To point out one more beautiful prayer than

* "A Century of Christian Prayers on Faith, Hope, and Charity." Ipswich: Printed and sold by John Raw, 1819. The following was written on the fly-leaf: "This Manual of Devotion containing a series of most beautiful Prayers adapted to all conditions of life, and to almost every exigency, fervent, vigorous, and energetic, yet free from every appearance of fanaticism or methodistical enthusiasm, is presented to the Rev. — Dighton by his sincere well-wisher and friend,

"J. A. P.

"May 1, 1823."

another where all are good is a difficult task, but I think those on Zeal, on true Devotion, and that for the Ministers of God's Word and Sacraments particularly good, and well suited to you.

"I have also sent you a little book of my own, 'The Memoirs of William Stevens,' who, though a tradesman only, was one of the best Hebrew, Greek, and Latin scholars of his age, and a deep theologian, and, what is better than all, a sound, practical Christian, whose charities were unlimited and his cheerfulness unbounded. In short, he was what all religious men should be—cheerful, unaffected, and a sound Church of England man. He was a first cousin of the great and good George Horne, Lord Bishop of Norwich.

"I am ashamed to trouble you with this long letter, but hope this and my general conduct will prove how much I love and respect the servants of Christ, and that, when I see worth and virtue, I cannot restrain my feelings in expressing what impressions those dispositions make. Delightful, however, as occupations of this kind are to me, my public duties greatly interfere with that society and those engagements that I like, and I fear that the writing of these lines will show that they were written at two different times, and that I was obliged to stop even in the middle of a sentence by judicial interruptions. However, I hope you will believe me to be,

"Very sincerely and faithfully yours,

"J. A. PARK.

"If you write to me, don't call me *Lord* or your Lordship."

As we might easily imagine from the tenor of this letter, Mr. Dighton's ministry in Warwick seems to have been highly successful, and his eloquence, zeal, and un-

tiring efforts for the welfare of the people among whom he worked gained for him a rich reward in their gratitude and affection. But, alas! the connection between him and Warwick was to be rudely severed. His Vicar, Mr. Boudier, for reasons which it is impossible after a lapse of eighty years to discover, and which were not clearly stated at the time, determined to dismiss his popular and earnest coadjutor. It may be some quarrel or misunderstanding arose, such as too often arises between upright and honourable men, or it may be the Vicar was jealous of the place Mr. Dighton was taking in the hearts of the people. Certain it is he gave his assistant a notice of dismissal at the end of six months. This act, which was regarded by the whole body of parishioners as tyrannical and unjust, roused the warmest feelings of resentment. A requisition for a town's meeting to consider what steps could be taken to retain Mr. Dighton's services was signed by 140 parishioners. The meeting was held on Thursday, July 31. The Mayor, Charles Wake, M.D., who supported the action of the Vicar, refused to take the chair, although he had convened the meeting, and after a stormy altercation withdrew. His place was taken by Alderman Edwards. The subsequent proceedings were both enthusiastic and unanimous. The speakers included some of the most prominent men in Warwick: Alderman William Collins,* Messrs. Jones, Tomes, Richard Tomes, Birch, Sanders, and Charles

* William Collins, a native of Warwick and for many years M.P. for the borough, was a well-known racing man. He married Miss Jane Tomes, daughter of another speaker at this meeting, who brought him a large fortune. He owned a gray thoroughbred named Isaac, that, ridden by the celebrated Sam Darling, won the Worcestershire Stakes in the presence of her late Majesty, then the Princess Victoria. After the race the successful jockey was presented to her Royal Highness, and complimented by her. William Collins died at Cheltenham on February 23, 1859, aged sixty-six years, and was buried at Micheldean by the Rector, the son of the man whom he had so stoutly befriended.

Lamb. All testified to the high esteem the people felt for the devoted minister who was about to leave them.

But the meeting next passed to a scheme by which it was hoped Mr. Dighton's services might be retained. It appears St. Mary's had a daughter church, St. Nicholas, attached to it as a sort of chapel-of-ease. It had long been the custom in Warwick that the Corporation should appoint the clergyman who served this church. The present Vicar, Mr. Boudier, however, had secured this appointment for himself, and actually claimed to be his own assistant. One can easily imagine the ridicule which successive speakers poured on a position so absurd and anomalous. A resolution was duly proposed and seconded suggesting that the Corporation, in accordance with old custom, should appoint an assistant to the parish church whose position and tenure of office should be wholly independent of the Vicar. This being carried, a second resolution was proposed and carried recommending Mr. Dighton as a fit and proper person to hold this office. The earlier speeches also indignantly referred to a recent and apparently most vindictive action on the part of the Vicar. Immediately he became aware of the requisition which was being signed on behalf of Mr. Dighton, he served that gentleman with a notice of instant dismissal. This last threat was not carried out, and Mr. Dighton did not leave Warwick till March, 1824.

The account of this meeting is taken from a very full report given in the *Warwickshire Advertiser* of August 2, 1823. The following extracts are also interesting :

“ We have authority to state that the new church at Hatton will be opened for Morning Service on Sunday, October 5, and that by particular request the Rev. C. M. Dighton, the assistant minister of St. Mary's, Warwick,

will officiate upon an occasion well suited to his impressive eloquence and genuine piety.”—*Warwickshire Advertiser*, Saturday, September 27, 1823.

EXTRACT FROM THE “WARWICKSHIRE ADVERTISER,”
SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1824.

“Presentation of a Piece of Plate to Mr. Dighton.”

“The Churchwardens of St. Nicholas in this Borough yesterday waited upon and presented the Rev. Mr. Dighton (from the congregation attending the church) with an elegant piece of plate, and on the delivery of it to the Reverend Gentleman, addressed him as follows :

“ ‘ REVEREND SIR,—We, the churchwardens of the parish of St. Nicholas, are requested by the Parishioners and Congregation to present you with this piece of plate as a lasting memorial of their high esteem and regard ; and permit us to add, the great gratification we personally feel in complying with their wishes ; and most sincerely wish you health and happiness.’

“To which Mr. Dighton replied :

“ ‘ GENTLEMEN,—Whilst I receive at your hands the handsome piece of Plate* with which you have presented me, I wish most sincerely and gratefully to thank the Congregation for this magnificent and kind testimonial of their feeling towards me. Believe me, Gentlemen, I am most happy that the services in which I engaged were satisfactorily performed, and I shall only add that in every situation, and at all times in which they may be required,

* Now in the possession of the Rev. C. E. Dighton of Maisemore, Gloucester.

it shall be my earnest endeavour zealously and conscientiously to discharge my ministerial duties.'

"The piece of Plate selected on this occasion by the Churchwardens was a massive handsome salver, got up in the first style of fashion and workmanship, bearing the following inscription :

" 'The Congregation attending St. Nicholas Church
in Warwick
Present this Piece of Plate
To the Rev. Charles Mein Dighton,
The officiating Minister,
As a token of their regard and esteem,
A.D. 1824.' "

On February 12, 1824,* while still curate at Warwick, the Rev. C. M. Dighton married Maria, daughter of the Rev. John Probyn of Longhope,† and on June 10 of the following year he was instituted to the Vicarage of Longhope, vacant by the death of his wife's uncle, the Rev. William Probyn.‡

There was no vicarage house at Longhope in those days, so with that energy which was characteristic of him the young incumbent began planning and building one with the assistance of his father-in-law. He was not, however, destined to occupy it. The fell disease which had carried off two of his brothers attacked him. He was advised to go to Madeira for the winter of 1826. It was, indeed, a sad day for the village and for the manor-

* See Marriage Register, Appendix H.

† Eldest son of Edmund Probyn of Newland, and brother-in-law of General Dighton. John Probyn was for some time in the army, but left it to take Holy Orders, and became Archdeacon and Dean of Llandaff.

‡ Also Vicar of Pershore, Worcestershire, and grandfather of General Sir Dighton Probyn, V.C., G.C.B., Keeper of His Majesty's Privy Purse.

house when he left, accompanied by his cousin, Edward Dighton, and a most faithful servant. He sailed from Falmouth, and in his last letter from there to his wife he wrote :

“The postchaise is at the door to take back Edward to Longhope. How I wish I was returning with him ! But our passage is taken, and we sail to-morrow.”

They arrived at Madeira on September 29. He stayed and died at a friend's house on Christmas Eve, 1826, aged twenty-nine. The friend, writing home, said he had never seen such devotion as that of his attendant, who brought home his watch and chain.

He left three children : my uncle, John Henry Dighton, afterwards Captain of the 30th Madras Native Infantry, and now of Newland, in this county ; my father, Charles Edward Dighton, the present Vicar of Maisemore, and Chairman of the Gloucester County Bench of Magistrates ; and my aunt, Veronica Arabella, now Mrs. Stanley Napier Raikes.

While Longhope Vicarage was being built, the Vicar and his wife lived at Gaston Cottage, a quaint little building still standing and inhabited on the left of the lane leading from Longhope to Aston Ingham, round the skirts of Yartledon, now called May Hill, and here their second son was born. The name Gaston is an old one in the parish. In the Court Roll of the Manor of Longhope the name occurs as far back as the thirty-eighth year of Charles II.—“one other parcell in Gassons” ; and again in a Court held on April 29, 1702—“Gaston meadow four acres” ; and also in 1710—“a parcell called Gasson, and a house there upon built. . . .”

Here, at the “parcell called Gasson,” I take leave of the reader.

Appendix A



FROM the Roll of Admissions to the Middle Temple, preserved in the Library of Gray's Inn :

"Job Deighton, son and heir of Thomas Deighton of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, gentleman, May 12, 1613.

"John Deighton, second son of Thomas Deighton of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, gentleman, February 15, 1622."

These entries identify Job Dighton and his brother John with Joabe, or Jobe, and John, eldest and second sons of Thomas Dighton of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, mentioned in the Dighton pedigrees of the Visitations of Lincolnshire (1559) and Yorkshire (1562). Unfortunately, the entries were only discovered after the printing of the late Sir John Maclean's "History of the Manor and Advowson of Clifford Chambers" ("Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucester Archæological Society," 1890, vol. xiv., Part I.). I have an old pedigree written in Latin on parchment, and beautifully emblazoned. It was long in the possession of the family at Clifford, and was given to my father by the Rev. Francis Hanbury Annesley. It gives some details of Job Dighton's nearest relatives which are not found in the other pedigrees.

Thomas Dighton had a third son, Thomas, and three daughters: Anne, wife of John Barnabie; Martha, wife of John Ffoote; and Sara, wife of Jasper Maris. The last name occurs as "Minister," signing the register early in December, 1660, and in all probability he was Job Dighton's brother-in-law. Sir John Maclean writes: "He doubtless was an intruder, like his predecessor, John Albright," but being willing to conform, he was formally instituted February 7, 166 $\frac{1}{2}$.

In the register of burials we find the following declaration:

"The booke of articles of ye Religion of ye Church of England I, Jasper Maris, Rector of the parish church of Clifford Chambers, in ye countie of Gloucester, did read on the Sabaoth day, viz., ye sixth day of April, 1662, in the parish church of Clifford aforesaid, in the end of morning prayers, and do approve allsoe and consent unto those articles.

"In Witness whereof I have subscribed my name,
"JASPAR MARIS."

Attested by eight parishioners.

“Mr. Jaspar Maris, Rector of the Parish Church of Clifford Chambers, in the County of Gloucester, Bach. of Arts in the University of Oxford, obiit ye 10 day of Nov., and was buried ye 12th, aged 71, 1667.”

In the old Latin pedigree aforesaid Job Dighton appears thus :

Jobe Dighton, = Anna, fil Henr. Harwell,
primogenitus, Alder. de Couentrie.
A^o 1623.

It is evident on a close examination that the space opposite Job Dighton's name had been originally left blank, and was afterwards filled in by a different hand in ink, which has much faded.

The will of Job Dighton is dated September 21, 1659. He mentions his two sons, Job and Henry ; his three daughters : Mary, wife of John Frogmore ; Anne, wife of Francis Watts of Eastcote (Urcott) ; Elizabeth, married without her father's consent to a man named Chamberlayne ; and his brother, Thomas Dighton. He bequeathed to his son Job the sum of £100 due from Henry Raynsford, and secured by a judgment bond for twice that amount. To his son Henry the arrears of rent due from certain property at Loughborough, co. Leicester, which had not been paid for twenty years, and his furniture and books in his chambers in the Temple.

Appendix B

ARMS OF DIGHTON FROM THE PEDIGREE OF 1623.

1. Argent, a lion passant between three crosses formée fitchée gules.
Crest, a lion's gambe erased or, holding a cross formée fitchée gules.
2. Ermine, a lion passant between three crosses formée fitchée gules.
Crest, a lion's gambe coupé or, holding a cross formée fitchée gules.
(For Christopher Dighton of Winsby, co. Lincoln.)
3. Per pale gules and argent an antelope passant counterchanged, on a chief divided as the field or and azure, two crosses formée fitchée also counterchanged.
Crest, a squirrel sejant per pale argent and gules, collared or, cracking a nut of the last. (For Robert Dighton of Stourton, co. Lincoln.)

32 *The Dightons of Clifford Chambers*

Henry Dighton, who succeeded his father, Job Dighton, at Clifford Chambers in 1659, was summoned by the Heralds to the Visitation of Gloucestershire of 1682²/₃, and it is consequently very strange that no pedigree of the family should appear in that Visitation, which was published some years ago. If there had been any flaw in his title to bear the arms of the Dightons of Lincolnshire, how came it that his son, Richard Dighton, and his grandson, Francis Keyt Dighton, should have borne these same arms without a fresh grant and without a difference?

The following arms were on hatchments affixed to the chancel of the parish church of Clifford in Bigland's time, and continued there until the recent restoration of the building:

Quarterly, one and four, argent, a lion passant between three crosses formée fitchée gules for Dighton, two and three azure, three falcons argent ducally crowned or for Bayley. On an escutcheon of pretence, azure, a chevron between three kites' heads erased or for Keyt. (For Richard Dighton.)

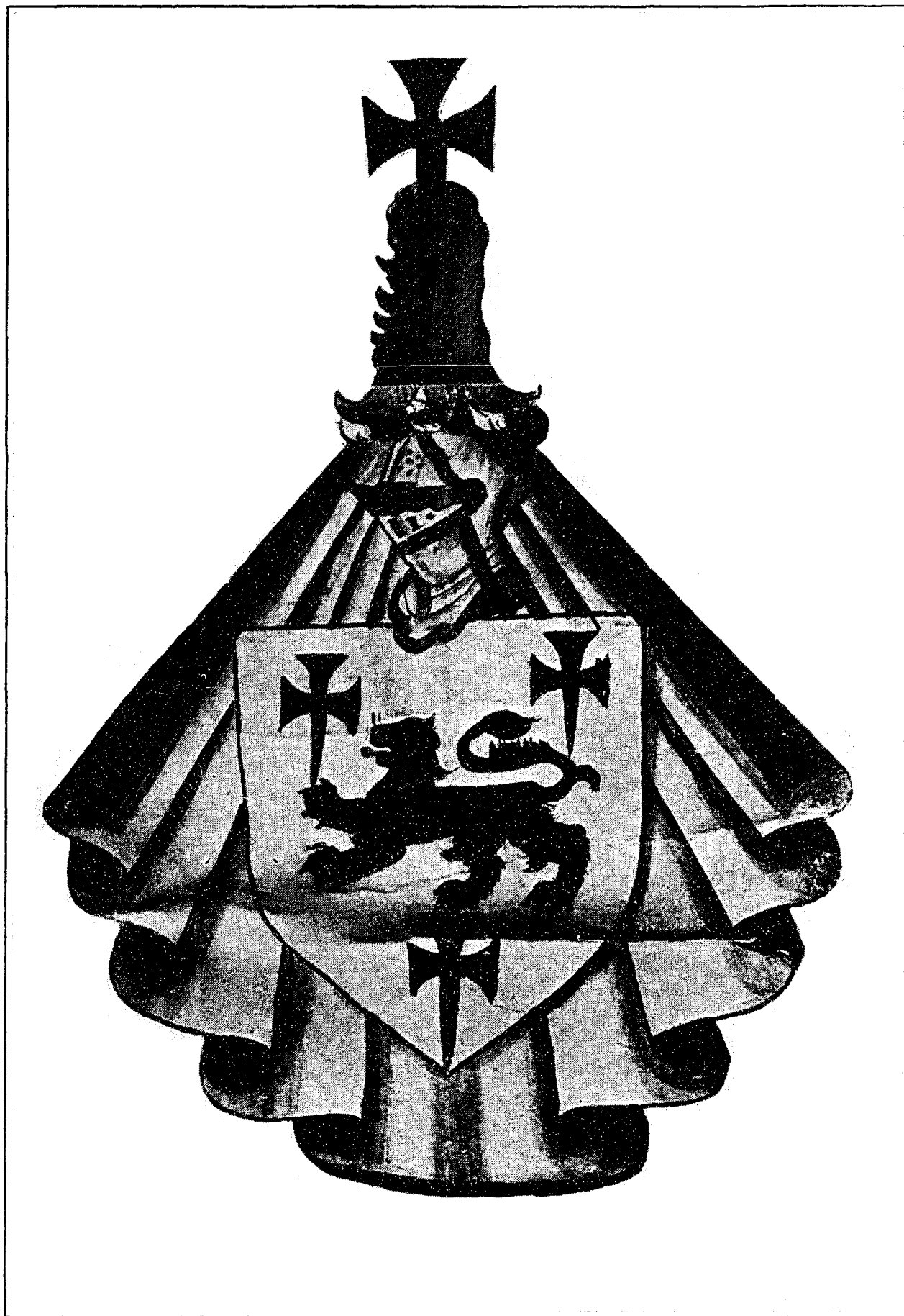
Quarterly, one Dighton as before, two and three azure, a chevron between three kites' heads erased or for Keyt, fourth as the first, impaling, quarterly one and four ermine on a bend sable, three eaglets displayed or for *Selman, two and three ermine on a fess sable, three mullets or for Lister.

Crest, a lion's gambe or, holding a cross formée fitchée gules. (For Francis Keyt Dighton.)

The arms of Dighton of Clifford are incorrectly blazoned in Atkyns, both as to the shape of the cross and the tinctures.

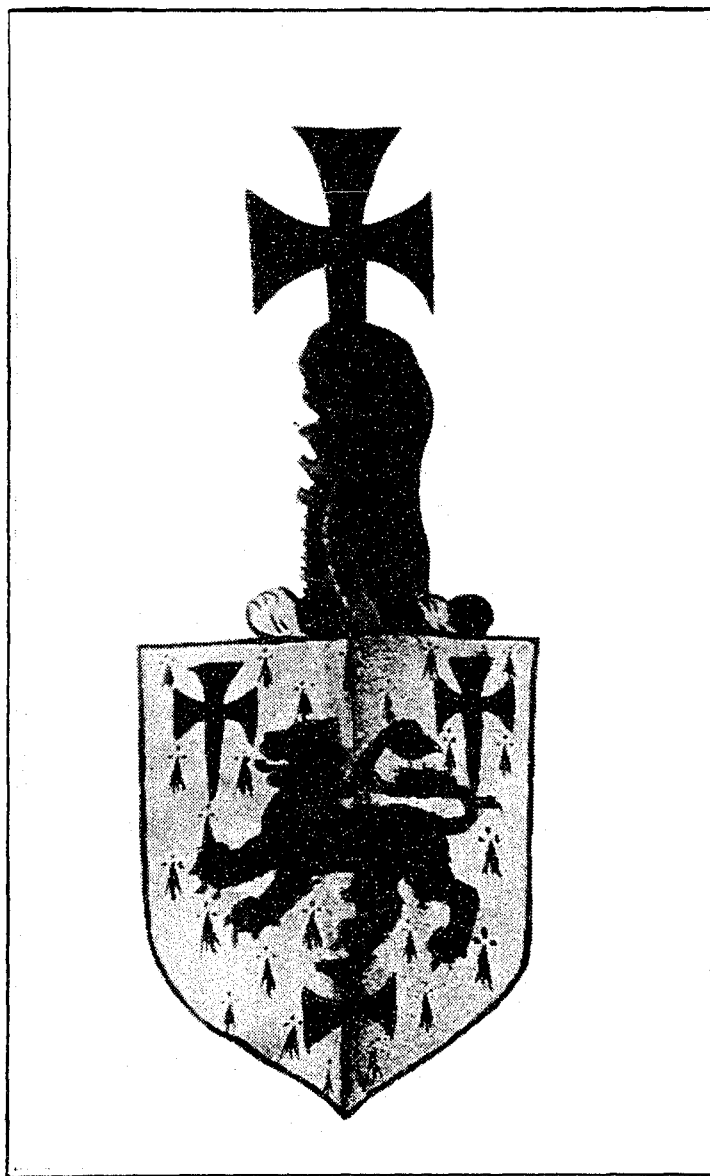
In the pedigree of 1623 the Dightons are traced from Sir Henry Dighton, Knight, who married Eva, daughter of Sir William Scroope, Knight.

* Francis Keyt Dighton's wife, Sarah, daughter of Daniel Selman, was, through her ancestor, Charles Shaw, related to the Shaw Lefevres, the family of Viscount Eversley, Speaker of the House of Commons (1839-57).



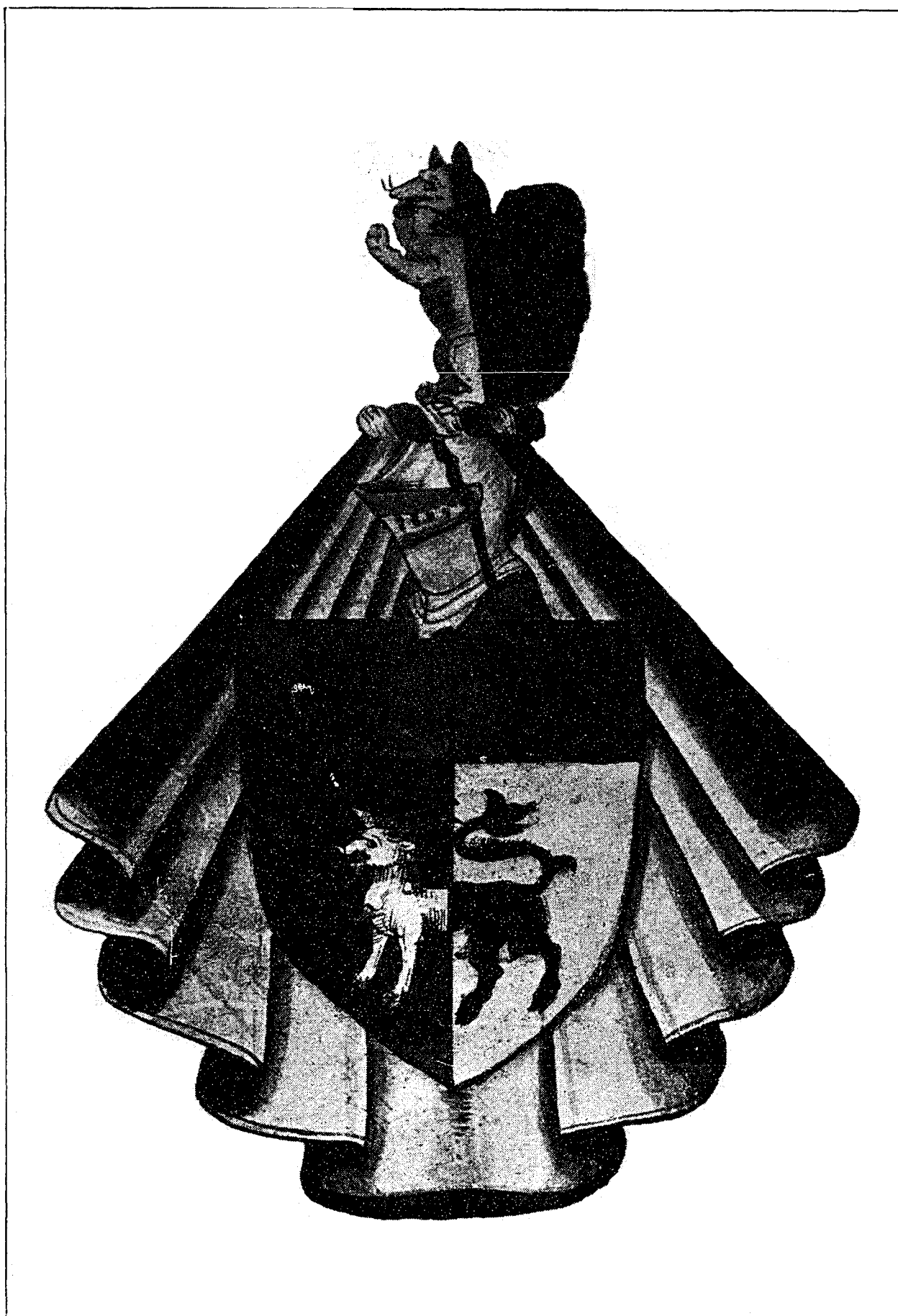
ARMS OF DIGHTON OF CLIFFORD CHAMBERS.

From the Pedigree of 1623.



ARMS OF CHRISTOPHER DIGHTON OF WINSBY,
CO. LINCOLN.

From the Pedigree of 1623.



ARMS OF ROBERT DIGHTON OF STOURTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

From the Pedigree of 1623.

Appendix C

Copied from Somerset House :

" Dighton, John, Administration, 1761.

"On the nineteenth day of January, admon. of the goods, Chattels, and credits of John Dighton, late of the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, in the Co. of Middlesex, Esq., deceased, was granted to Elizabeth Dighton, widow, the relict of the said deceased, having been first sworn duly to administer. Limited admon. of goods unadministered passed December, 1834."

Appendix D

Extract from a letter written by Mrs. Hayes, housekeeper to Mr. George Lucy when he was staying for his health in Cheltenham, dated Charlecote, June 21, 1749.

Copied from the *Pall Mall Magazine* of October, 1894, from the original in the possession of the Lucy family :

"Mr. Dighton* insists upon my telling you that he would have you look for a wife in Cheltenham, for doe all he can there is no hope for you at Clopton."

Extract from the will of Mr. George Lucy of Charlecote Park, the last descendant in the male line of that branch of the Lucy family, dated 1783 :

"Also I give and bequeath unto Mrs. Elizabeth Dighton, widow of John Dighton, Esq., deceased, the sum of £1,000, to the intent that she may receive and enjoy the interest thereof for her life, and that she may dispose of the principal after her decease to and for the benefit of her family.

"Also, I give to Lister Dighton, Esq., the sum of £500 ; also, I give to his sister, Miss Dighton, the sum of £200 ; also, I give to his niece, Miss Lucy Annesley, the sum of £100 to buy her a piece of plate."

* Francis Keyt Dighton of Clifford Chambers.

Appendix E

Lister Dighton, by his will dated December 2, 1805, directs that his body should be buried in a plain and secret manner in the family vault in Clifford Church as near to his late wife as may be. Among other legacies, he gives to Mrs. Mary, widow of Bertie Egerton, late of Wednesbury, co. Oxon, clerk, deceased, an annuity of £10 per annum for life. To Lister Mason, the godson of his late wife, £50, and to Lucy Mason, his own god-daughter, £50. To Elizabeth Dighton, widow of John Dighton, Esq., deceased, £1,000. To James Lucy Dighton, Esq., £200. To his (testator's) niece, Arabella Annesley, £1,000. To John Robert Mason of Alveston £50, and to Mrs. Mason, his wife, a mourning-ring. To the Rector and churchwardens of Clifford £20, to be placed out at interest, and the money arising therefrom to be laid out in bread to be given to the poor on St. Thomas' Day.* He gives and devises to his nephew, the Rev. Arthur Annesley, all his capital mansion-house, manor, mills, messuages, etc., with all its rights, royalties, liberties, privileges, and appurtenances, and all other his real estate wheresoever, to hold all the said estate, to his said nephew, Arthur Annesley, his heirs and assigns for ever, and appoints his said nephew residuary legatee.

Appendix F

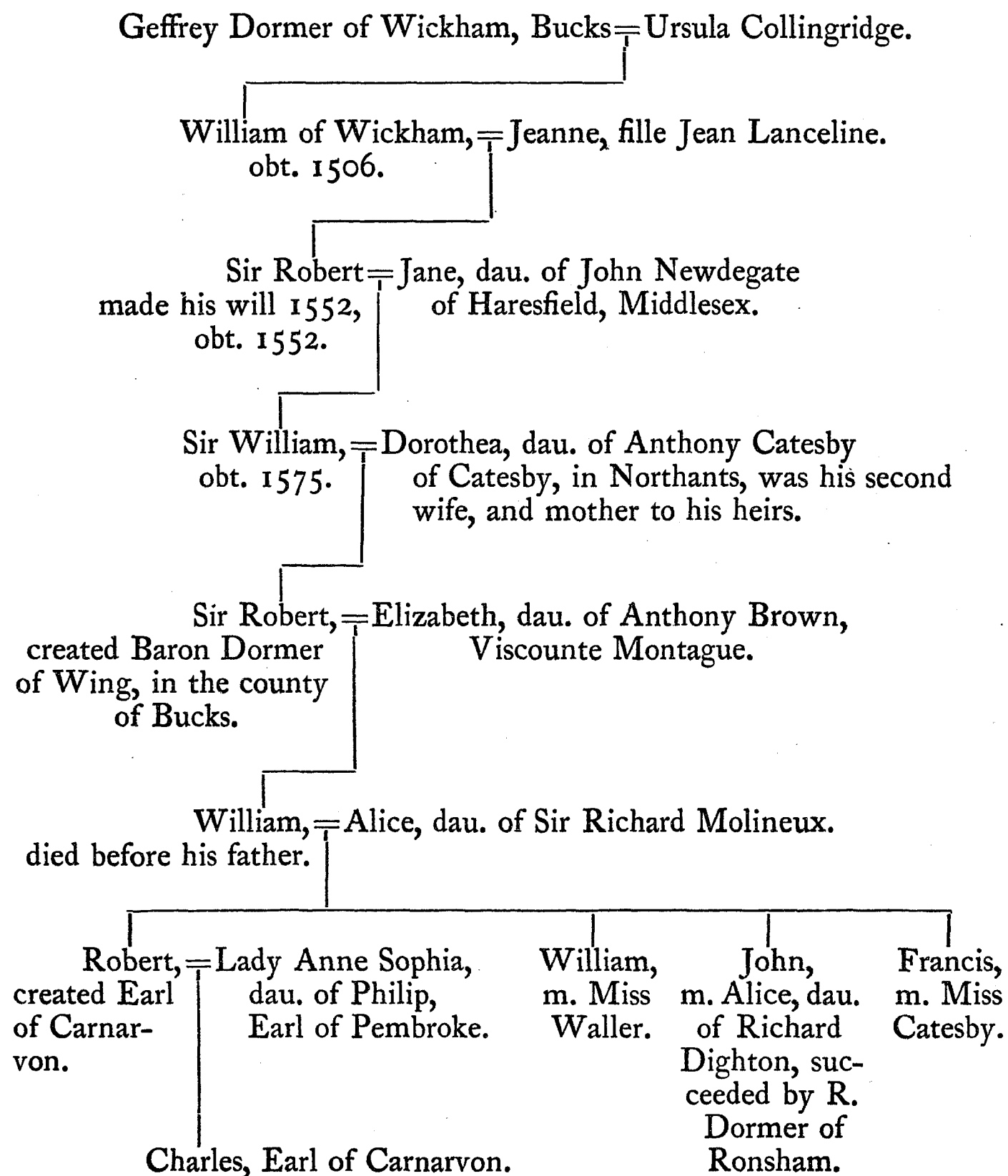
THE FLOYER FAMILY.

Amongst a number of old deeds relating mostly to my ancestors, the Probyns, late of Newland and Longhope, Gloucestershire, is one which throws light on the name of Floyer. It is a composition deed dated 22 George II., in which Charles Floyer, gentleman, of Abergavenny, solicitor, and Blanche, his wife, assign certain real property in Abergavenny to two trustees, one of whom was Kedgwin Webley, for the purpose of paying certain creditors, whose names are given, ten shillings in the pound. It is evident that Charles and Blanche Floyer had a family. Some of the property is in the parish of Llantillio Portholey, and the Manor or Lordship of Lloyney is also mentioned. I think we have here a relation of John Floyer, who married Arabella Dighton.

* The Rev. Francis Annesley in 1872 made a similar donation in augmentation of this bequest.

Appendix G

PEDIGREE OF DORMER OF ASCOTT.



36 *The Dightons of Clifford Chambers*

Sir Charles Cottrell Dormer married Miss Jane Cæsar Adelmare, daughter of Charles Cæsar, Esq., of Bayfordbury, Herts, and granddaughter of Charles Cæsar, Esq., of Bennington Place, Herts. They had an only son, Clement, who died in 1808.

The members of the Cottrell family were in turn Masters of the Ceremonies to the Kings of England. On Sir Clement resigning this office from ill-health, he was succeeded in it by his relation, Sir Stephen Cottrell, Knight, after which this office, to which their ancestor, Sir Charles Cottrell, had been appointed by King Charles I., became lost to the family.

Appendix H

EXTRACTS FROM PARISH REGISTERS.

Clifford Chambers.

1639. Job, son of Mr. Job Dighton, Esq., bapt. April 15.
 1655. Mrs. Anne Di(gh)ton, wife to Master Jobe Di(gh)ton, bur.
 May 20.
 1659. Mr. Jobe Di(gh)ton, colln. ? was buried in the night by his
 brother, Mr. William Harewell, October 13.
 166 $\frac{4}{5}$. Richard, son of Henry Dighton, Esq., and Sarah his wife
 bapt. March 6.
 1669. Mr. Job Dighton, bur. October 11.
 168 $\frac{3}{4}$. Sarah, wife of Henry Dighton, Esq., bur. March 22.
 1687. Henry Dighton, Esq., bur. February 21.
 1691. Ales, dau. of Richard Dighton, Esq., bapt. July 7.
 1696. Jane,* dau. of Richard Dighton, Esq., and Alice his wife, bapt.
 October 2.
 1699. Francis Keyt, son of Richard Dighton, Esq., born April 26 and
 bapt. May 18.
 1701. Margaret,† dau. of Richard Dighton, Esq., and Alice his wife,
 bapt. December 15.
 170 $\frac{2}{3}$. Sarah, dau. of Richard Dighton, Esq., bur. January 6.
 1705. Richard,‡ son of Richard Dighton, and Alice his wife, bapt.
 August 10.
 170 $\frac{6}{7}$. Henry, son of Richard Dighton, Esq., and Alice his wife,
 bapt. January 31.
 1709. Arabella, dau. of Richard Dighton, Esq., and Alice his wife,
 bapt. April 26.
 1710-11. Lucy, dau. of Richard Dighton, Esq., and Alice his wife,
 bapt. March 7.
 1712. John Dormer, Esq., and Mrs. Alice Dighton, mar. June 27.
 1713. John, son of Richard Dighton, Esq., and Alice his wife, bapt.
 June 22.
 1714-15. Mr. Henry Dighton, bur. February 5.
 1729. Richard Dighton, A.M., pres. to the Rectory of Clifford by
 R. Dighton, Esq.

* Married Mr. Lynch.

† Married Mr. Wise.

‡ Rector of Clifford, 1729-1732.

38 *The Dightons of Clifford Chambers*

1732. Richard, second son of Richard Dighton, Esq., bur. June 2.
1735. Arabella, dau. of Francis Keyt Dighton, Esq., and — his wife, bapt. June 12.
1736-37. John Dighton, bapt. April 18.
1736-37. John Dighton, bur. April 24.
1737. Mrs. Dighton, ye wife of Mr. Francis Dighton, bur. May 6.
1738. Mr. Richard Dhitun, Esq., bur. August 27.
1743. Mrs. Ales Dighton, widow, from Hilcoate, bur. September 3.
1761. Francis, son of Francis Keyte Dighton, bur. September 9.
1769. Francis Keyte Dighton, Esq., bur. February 11.
1794. Miss Arabella Dighton, bur. November 30.
1798. Mrs. Mary Dighton, bur. June 30.
1807. Lister Dighton, Esq., bur. May 11.

St. Andrew's, Holborn (Baptisms).

1749. John Spencer, son of John and Elizabeth Dighton, Southampton Buildings, May 2.
1750. James Lucy, son of John and Elizabeth Dighton, Southampton Buildings, November 17.
1752. Alice, dau. of John and Elizabeth Dighton, Southampton Buildings, March 2.
1753. Richard, son of John and Elizabeth Dighton, Southampton Buildings, October 8.
1754. Charles, son of John and Elizabeth Dighton, Southampton Buildings, September 25.
1756. Elizabeth, dau. of John and Elizabeth Dighton, Southampton Buildings, March 2.
1757. Lucy, dau. of John and Elizabeth Dighton, Southampton Buildings, June 9.
1759. Henry, son of John and Elizabeth Dighton, Southampton Buildings, December 10.
1761. John, son of John and Mary* ? Dighton, Southampton Buildings, June 30.

Great Milton, Oxon.

1761. Mr. John Dighton of London, bur. January 9.

St. Mary de Lode, Gloucester.

1841. James Lucy† Deighton, St. Catherine's, January 15, ninety-six years.—James Buchanan, off. Min.
1851. Sarah Dighton, St. Catherine's, January 8, eighty-nine years.—W. L. Cogan, Vicar.

* Clerical error for Elizabeth.

† A clerical error.

Shirburn, Oxon.

1758. Arabella, dau. of John Dighton, Esq., and Elizabeth his wife,
bapt. October 5.

MARRIAGE SOLEMNIZED IN THE PARISH OF LONGHOPE, IN THE
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, IN THE YEAR 1824.

Charles Mein Dighton, Clerk, of the Town of Warwick, Bachelor,
and

Maria Probyn, of this Parish, Spinster,
were married in this church by Licence, with the consent of friends, this
Twelfth day of February, in the year One Thousand Eight hundred and
Twenty-four,

By me, Edmund Probyn, Off^g Minister.

This marriage was solemnized between us { Charles M. Dighton.
Maria Probyn.

In the presence of { Edward Machin.
John Probyn, Jun^r.

No. 38.

I certify that the foregoing is an actual and correct transcript of the
entry in the Marriage Register of the Parish Church of Longhope, made
by me this sixteenth day of April, 1902.

As witness my hand,

GEORGE BARR, M.A.,
Rector of Longhope.

Appendix I

INSCRIPTION ON A FLAT-STONE WITHIN THE ALTAR-RAILS AT MICKLETON CHURCH, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

"Here lyes y^e Body of Alice Keyt, Daughter of Sr William Spencer of Yardington, in the County of Oxford, Baronet, and of Constance his wife, y^e daughter of Sr Thomas Lucy of Charlecot, in the County of Warwick, w^{ch} said Alice was y^e late wife of Frances Keyt of Hidcoat, Esq., and deceased ye 29th of May, in y^e year 16(87).*

"A lady dignified not only by her birth, but, besides her other Vertues, for her Love and Fidelity to her Husband."

INSCRIPTION IN GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL.

On a flat-stone under the third arch from the screen on the south side of the cathedral.

"Richard Dighton, Esq^{re},
died May 4th, 1800,
Ætat. 46."

"Charles Dighton, Esq^{re},
died Dec. 9th, 1807,
Ætat. 52."

INSCRIPTION IN WALCOT CHURCH, NEAR BATH.

"Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth, daughter of Richard and Ann† Dighton, who departed this life the 1st of May, in the year 1808, aged twelve years and . . . months.

"Also to the memory of Ann Dighton, relict of Richard Dighton, Esq^{re}, late of the Wilderness, Forest of Dean, who departed this Life the 23 of October, 1809, aged 40 years."

* The two last figures of the date are partially covered by the wall of the church.

† Daughter of Dr. King of Bath.